ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR
& POLAR NUMISMATIST VOLUME XXXI, NO. 5, JUNE, 2009.

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PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS AND ALASKA

Illustration enlarged. Actual size 39mm.

New subscriber Tom Dalrymple posed an interesting question. What is President John Adams doing on a medal with the state seal of Alaska.

This medal has been known for some time, appearing in the 1965 edition of "Alaska's Coinage Through the Years" by Gould, Bressett, Dethridge and Dethridge. It appears very early in the book, as item #4 on page 7, listed under "Alaska Statehood." It is not illustrated.

Over the years, we have only handled one example of this medal, indicating that it is fairly scarce.

I posted an inquiry on e-sylum, the email newsletter of the Numismatic Bibliophile Society. No one could suggest a reason why Adams would be paired with the Alaska state seal. The only suggestion that seemed to make sense was that it was a mule.

We assumed that it was made by Medallic Art Co. I was sure that the one example I had was marked "MACO" on the edge. Tom was able to locate an example, and the edge was marked "Metal Arts Co. Inc. Roch. NY .999 silver 29 © Silver Coin Series." Kurtis Hawk reported that his example has a plain edge.

Metal Arts Co., has morphed into Coating Technology Inc. The medal business was sold to Johnson Matthey, who sold some of the equipment to former plant manager Bill Lemaire, who is reported operating under the business name "North American Mint." Efforts to find this business on the internet has failed.

So, our knowledge about this medal is quite limited. We know that it was made by Metal Arts Co. in Rochester, N.Y. It has been known since at least 1965.

Do any of our subscribers possess this medal? If so, could you please report what is on the edge. Does anyone have any information on the "Silver Coin Series?" Other medals from this series might give a clue as to why Adams and Alaska were paired. Or they could indicate that this is a mule.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

You know, it is a real pain looking up all the tokens in FTR to see if they have been run before. And while it is a pain, and time consuming, while doing it, I get to see all the other neat stuff we have had in the newsletter over the past 30 years. Items that are rare, or odd, or at least have an interesting story. I get to see items that have not been published anywhere else. I hope you take some time and look over a back issue once in a while.

So keep those items FTR coming. I can endure the pain. That's what you pay me the big bucks for.

There was what appears to be a good buy on eBay this past couple months. An unlisted Alaska Pool Hall from Juneau sold for only $53.56! At the other end of the spectrum, a Quadra token brought $1,275 and a Tacotna token sold from $1,175. Quite impressive.

This issue is a bit late. I took May off, unintentionally, but I just didn't have anything for the front page. As always, we welcome submissions. Especially if they can save me the work of filling in the blanks on the pages.

As an update on the bound version of the third ten years, my bookbinder has not returned to town yet. As soon as I see her, I will give her the volumes to bind.

I had a quick trip back east the end of May. Weather was horrible. While it was 80 (that's above zero) in Fairbanks, it was a rainy 50s and 60s in ME and MA.

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PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Anchorage, D&D Bar, 50¢, B-14c	137.52
Anchorage, Flowers, 5¢, B-18aI	95.00OB
Bering River, Hoonah Pkg, $5, B-1f	150.00OB
Bering River, Hoonah Pkg., 5¢, 10¢ and $5, B-1 a, b and f	45.00
Bethel, N.C. Co., 50¢, B-2b	97.00
Bethel, N.C. Co., $1, B-2c	150.00OB
Circle, Collins & Strait, $1, B-1c	195.00OB
Cordova, Horseshoe Liquor, 6¼¢, B-20a	55.00OB
Cordova, Little, 12½¢, B-22a	OB175.00NB
Cordova, Old Crow, 6¼¢, B-31a	93.04
Cordova, Roswog, 5¢, B-34a	237.50
Cordova, Roswog, 6¼¢, B-34b	61.00
Cordova, Windsor Hotel Bar, 6¼¢, B-41b	OB75.00NB
Cordova, Windsor Hotel Bar, 12½¢, B-41c	OB99.95NB
(Cleary), Totem, 12½¢, B-4a	7.16
Eek, McIntyre, 25¢, B-1a	45.00OB
Fairbanks, Brown Derby, 10¢, B-10b	61.00
Fairbanks, University Bus, 15¢, B-T7a	32.00
Fairbanks, University Coach, 12½¢, B-8a	33.50
Fort Yukon, FY Hotel, 25¢, B-4a	18.00
Goodnews Bay, Joe Jean, 25¢, B-1a	51.00
(Goodnews Bay), Rutlader, $1, B-2b	50.00OB
(Haines), Haines Saloon, speculative	159.50
Hawk Inlet, Harris, $1, B-1e	76.00
Juneau, Alaska Pool Hall, 12½¢, unlisted	53.56FTR
Juneau, Elks, 12½¢, B-19bI	OB100.00NB
Juneau, Ferguson, 12½¢, B-21a	281.00
Juneau, Juneau Billiard, $1.20, B-32c	RLBIN495.00
Juneau, Hotel Juneau, chits, B-37 c-f, + more	61.06
Juneau, Frank Young's Saloon, 5¢, B-72a	266.00
Juneau, Peerless Bakery, one bread, B-60a	230.07
Juneau, Peerless Bakery, one bread, B-60a	240.51
Juneau, Royal Fruit, 6¼¢, B-63a	799.00
Juneau, Garnick encased, round	OB30.00NB
Ketchikan, Butterhorn Bakery, Sm. Loaf, B-8a	85.00OB
Ketchikan, Finzel's, 5¢, B-15aII	2xRLOB40.00NB
Ketchikan, Lotus Buffet, 6¼¢, B-31c	40.00OB
Ketchikan, Masonic, B-61a, metal unknown	125.00OB
Ketchikan, Rainbow Cigar, 12½¢, B-50a	75.00OB
Ketchikan, Royal Hotel, 5¢, B-53a	435.00
Ketchikan, Smoke Shop, 25¢, B-59d	OB125.00NB
Ketchikan, Smoke Shop, 25¢, B-59d	2xRLOB125.00NB
Ketchikan, Stedman Hotel, $1, B-60dI	35.00OB
Ketchikan, NST, B-T3b	10.50
Ketchikan, Northern Bus, B-T4d	19.50
Kodiak, Brown Bear Bus, B-T1aI	32.00
Nome, Cavey's Bakery, 1 loaf, B-13a	95.00OB
Palmer, ARRC, 1¢, B-1a	46.00
Palmer, ARRC, 5¢, B-1b	49.89
Palmer, ARRC, $5, B-1g	217.50
Palmer, ARRC, set minus $5, B-1, 7 pcs.	RLOB800.00NB
Palmer, ARRC, complete set of 8	OB999.00NB
Quadra, Southern AK Canning, $1, B-1c	1,275.00FTR
Quinhagak, Pauline Jean, 25¢, B-1a	51.00
Seward, Northern, 12½¢, B-8a	109.50

continued on page 39

PRICES REALIZED, cont.

Sitka, Silver Foam Rec. Parlor, 10¢, B-15a 139.50FTR
Sitka, Witz, 5¢, B-17a 55.88
Skagway, (Horseshoe), 6¼¢, B-13a 60.00OB
Skagway, McCreedy & Elliott, 7 pc set B-16 202.50
Skagway, Seattle Saloon, 12½¢, B-23aII 127.51
Snug Harbor, Pioneer Can., $1.25 bx, B-2a 36.00
Sugiya & Co., $1, unlisted, probably not Alaska 26.95
Talkeetna, B.N. Pool, 12½¢, B-1aII OB40.00
Tacotna, K.C. Co., 25¢, B-2a 1,175.00
Teller, N.S. Merchantile, $1, B-2d 20.50
Tonsina, Nafsted, 12½¢, B-1a 80.89
Valdez, Pioneer Saloon, 12½¢, B-17a 395.00OB
Valdez, Al White, no denom., B-22a 395.00OBFTR
Wrangell, Beer Hall, 5¢, B-3a 95.00OB
Wrangell, Wrangell Hotel, 12½¢, B-11b 905.00
Yakutat, St. Elias Pkg., $1, B-2c 100.00OB
Yes Bay, APF, 50¢, B-1c OB125.00NB
Yes Bay, APF, $1, B-1d OB125.00NB
Yes Bay, APF, 10¢, B-3b OB85.00NB
Yes Bay, APF, 10¢, B-3b RLOB85.00NB
Yes Bay, APF, 10¢, B-3b 2xRLOB75.00NB
Yes Bay, APF, $1, B-3e 76.50
Alaska Gold, ½ Pinch, 1900, octagonal OB550.00NB
Alaska Gold, 1 Pinch, 1899, round, NGC-64 909.00
AYPE, ¼ DWT, 1909 91.00
AYPE, ¼ DWT, 1909, NGC-64 336.01
AYPE, ½ DWT, 1909 180.00
AYPE, 1 DWT, 1909 143.01
AYPE, 1 DWT, 1909, NCS AU, cleaned 147.50
AYPE, 1 DWT, 1909, NGC-65 BIN595.00ended???

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist R = Reserve
RNM = Reserve Not Met W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now
DNS = Did Not Sell FTR = see For the Record

B.M. BEHRENDS BANK INGOT

B.M. Behrends Bank, Juneau. 1000 grains of sterling silver (almost 2 oz. pure). By the Franklin Mint.

$38 plus $5 per order shipping.

LAST CHANCE

Last year we struck 5 sets of ¼, ½, 1, 5 and 10 DWT tokens from gold from Eagle Creek in the Circle District. We have one set left and this is set #5. It is priced at $1,200.

If the set does not sell by July 1, the pieces of the set will be available as follows:

10 DWT (only 5 minted) - $700
5 DWT (only 5 minted - $350
1 DWT (only x minted) - $100
½ DWT (only x minted - $45
¼ DWT (only x minted) - $25

If these do not sell by August 1, they will be "recycled" into a new 1 DWT token.

NEW "OPERATION DEEP FREEZE" MEDAL"

The medal to the right is very similar to other "Operation Deep Freeze" medals.

The Our Lady of the Snows design is known as the Catholic design. There was a different design for Protestants. This die was used on medals from Deep Freeze II, III and IV.

It was also used with he Christmas Blessing, Cardinal Spellman die in 1963. The date would appear just below "Cardinal Spellman."

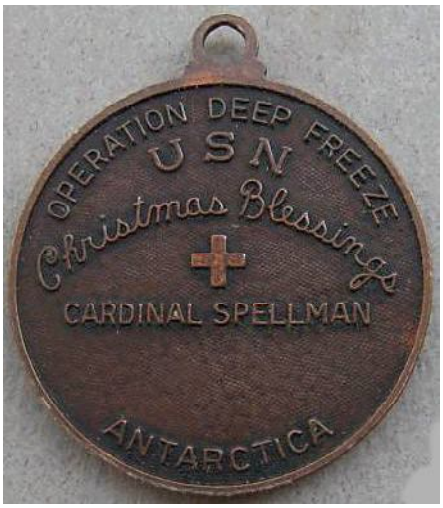


Illustration enlarged. Actual size 34mm.

This medal is different on three counts: 1) it is undated and 2) it is bronze. All others have been silver (stamped sterling) or silver in color. And finally, 3) the loop attachment is different than others seen. On other medals, the loop appears to be just a circle attaching to the rim. This is a more than just a circle. The loop on this medal has extra metal where it meets the edge of the medal. This can be best seen in the photo to the left.

This last difference indicates that this medal may have been made by a different company than the previous medals. Unfortunately, we don't know who made these, or how many were made.

FRED ZINKANN STRIKES AGAIN!

Fred Zinkann has been making fantasy coins since the 1980s. Usually, he selects remote Antarctic areas. His most recent addition to his portfolio is a Kroner for Bouvet Island, first claimed by Norway in 1928. Bouvet is a mostly ice covered and located at 54 degrees, 26 minutes South. Landings there are rare.

Another resent issue was for Vostok, a Russian scientific station on the Antarctic continent. The 5 Ruble coin is lettered in Russian, and translates "Among cathedrals of ice//on the continent of friends."

The Bouvet Island coin is 25mm, and struck in .999 fine silver. The Vostock coin is also 25mm, but struck in copper nickel.

Mr. Zinkann's coins have called attention to French Antarctic Territories including Adelie Land, Kerguelen Island, Crozet Islands and St. Paul Island; McMurdo; Enderbyland; and Falkland Islands. His coins have been struck in gold, silver, brass, copper nickel and exotic metals like tantalum. The designs tend to be very stylized and geometric. Many can be found on eBay.

ANCHORAGE ARC

In April, we ran a maverick in the FTR section. Anchorage ARC was a complete mystery. Fortunately, Ken Rieck recognized it. We quote from his email.

"Just received your newsletter. Am attaching scan of the 2 ARC Anchorage tokens that are in my collection. I have had these since about 1984. Sadly the 5 cent one is very weak.

"You know, I never knew what they were for or who issued them but now that you have brought it to light I ran a Google check on the name "arc anchorage".

"They are The Arc of Anchorage. Herewith is a small excerpt from their webpage www.arc-anchorage.org

"Many people still remember us as "ARCA" or "Association for Retarded Citizens of Anchorage." We made the change in 1997 in response to requests from the people we serve for "people first" language, as well as the need for a name that fit the expansion of services to people who experience all kinds of developmental disabilities, behavioral health concerns, and/or deafness.

"1957 ~ **Parents' Association for Retarded Children of Anchorage (PARCA)**

"1962 ~ **Association for Retarded Citizens of Anchorage (ARCA)**

"1997 ~ **The Arc of Anchorage**

Geez, I must pass their location on Northern Lights Blvd. (near UAA) at least once a week and never associated it with my tokens."

Ed. Note: We are showing only the "5" token. It is approximately 28mm, white on green. The "25" token can be seen in the April issue.

FOR THE RECORD

JUNEAU: Alaska Pool Hall, 12½¢ in trade. Unlisted.

QUADRA: Southern Alaska Canning Co., $1 in trade, B-1c.

SITKA: Silver Foam Recreation Parlor, 10¢ in trade, B-15a.

VALDEZ: AL. White, no denomination, B-22a.

WRANGELL: Wrangell Hotel, 12½¢ in trade, B-11b.

These are not illustrated in Benice's "Alaska Tokens," and I don't think we have shown them in the past.

FOR THE RECORD

(ANCHORAGE): Amvets, Thomas Carroll, Post 2. Drink token. Thick bluish pliable, translucent plastic, 42mm. This may be the same as reported last month. Better image, showing that the token is translucent.

ANCHORAGE: The Cabin Tavern, One Call. Black on white plastic, 38mm.

(ANCHORAGE): Cheechako Bar, Rain Check. Red on white plastic poker chip, 39mm.

ANCHORAGE: Eddie's Sports Bar, good for one drink. Brown (or red) on white plastic, 38mm.

ANCHORAGE: F.O.E. Aerie #4207 (Eagles), good for one drink. Black on yellow plastic, 38mm. Top of next column.

ANCHORAGE: Hideaway Club, good for one drink. White on red plastic, size not reported.

ANCHORAGE: V.F.W. Post 9981, good for one drink. Gold on green plastic.

ANCHORAGE: Voyager Lounge, 1 free drink. Black on blue plastic 43mm.

Most items in "For the Record" in this issue submitted by Ken Rieck. I lost track this month and apologize to anyone not acknowledged.

FOR THE RECORD

CHUGIAK: Thunderbird Lounge, Eklutna Lodge, drink token. White on red plastic, 42mm.

HOMER: Griffin's Bayside Lounge, $2.25 in trade. Previously reported 89-72 without illustration.

KASILOF: J-Bar-B, I love this bar, cum as U R. Drink tokens, two colors. Black on pink and black on light blue, 38mm.

KODIAK: Tropic Lounge drink tokens. Spirits is black on yellow thick plastic, 38mm. Beer is white on blue thin plastic, 32mm. Beer token at the top of the next column.

KODIAK: VFW 7036, top shelf drink. Gold on white plastic, 29mm.

NOME: Polaris Bar, Month of Iditarod, 1986, good for one drink. White on blue, 42mm.

WASILLA: Wasilla Bar, Hot Shots & Cinnamons, good for one free drink, beer/well, not good after 10PM. Red on white plastic, 41mm.

A neat silver pin inscribed "Laura."

ALASKA 1 OZ. SILVER - $25 each!

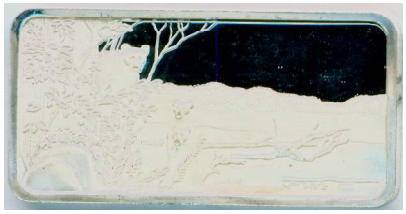
Plus $5 postage per order.

35th Anniversary of Statehood.

Greyhound Lounge/Silver Spur Nite Club.

International Circumpolar Conference, 25th Anniversary.

Alaska Marine Highway, 30th anniversary, 1993.



KODIAK: From the "America the Beautiful" series by the Hamilton Mint. The obverse has a scene with a standing bear. The reverse bears the legend "Kodiak Island, home of the Kodiak bear, largest carnivore on earth, unspoiled Kodiak Island is a reminder of Russia's colonization of Alaska."

OUR NEW ONE OUNCE SILVER MEDAL WITH STATE QUARTER

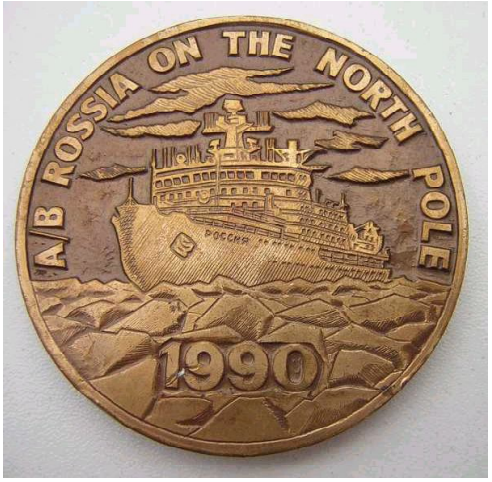
We received our first shipment of our new silver medal, featuring the Alaska state quarter. The quarter is set into a depression in the medal and super glued in place.

It carries the legend "49th State" and "The Last Frontier." The reverse is our standard Denali "Great Land" die.

We have made 100 of these. The next striking may be modified so that the wedges along the side of the quarter are frosty. We asked them to do that this time, but it did not get done.

Price is $30 per medal, and $5 for postage and handling per order.

INTERESTING MEDALS!



RUSSIA: Murmansk Shipping Company. A/B Rossia on the North Pole. Bronze, 60mm, 105 grams.

(GREENLAND): 1728 Nuuk - Godthaab 1978. 250th Anniversary of the founding of Godthaab. Bronze, 70mm, 15mm thick, 296 grams. Mintage - 2,500. Really massive and attractive deeply dished medal.

SPITZBERGEN: Nice commemorative medal noting the Spitzbergen Treaty (Svalbardtraktaten) of 1920. This treaty acknowledged Norwegian sovereignty over the Svalbard archipelago, but also allowed other countries to exploit its resources, primarily coal. There were mining companies from Norway, Sweden and the USSR operating there at one time. .925 silver, 1 oz., 40mm.